

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions are clear-cut evidence that the American public's access to unbiased news and information is being undermined by media consolidation.

The public airwaves belong to the public in a democracy; Sinclair uses our airwaves free of charge, and thus is obligated by law to serve the public interest, not its own political/economic agenda. When large companies control the airwaves, democracy takes a back seat to the almighty Bottom Line. So-called "news" invented in "Wag the Dog" fashion is unacceptable and undemocratic. We need information from real people from our own communities and we need unbiased, substantive news about issues that matter to us, not propaganda disguised as news to further empower and enrich a handful of self-serving corporations.

Sinclair's actions illustrate the urgent need to strengthen media ownership rules. It further emphasizes the FCC's obligation to the public and to democracy itself: the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.